

I CLAIM:

1. A method reporting an alarm comprising the steps of: encapsulating each alarm token reported in respect of the reported alarm between a corresponding pair of eXtensible Markup Language (XML) tags.
- 5 2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of encapsulating each alarm token in XML tags is performed by a communication network equipment experiencing a corresponding alarm condition, the method further comprising a step of: receiving an XML tag specification in respect of the alarm.
- 10 3. The method claimed in claim 2, wherein a plurality of XML tag specifications are received in respect of a plurality of reported alarms having alarm codes, the method further comprising a step of: performing a look-up query based on the alarm code to retrieve XML tags in respect of alarm tokens of the reported alarm.
4. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of issuing the alarm report.
- 15 5. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of: compiling a plurality of alarm reports into a single alarm report log file.
6. The method claimed in claim 5, further comprising a step of: conveying the single alarm report log file to a network management system.
- 20 7. The method claimed in claim 5, further comprising a step of: encapsulating the plurality of alarm reports between XML tags specifying an extent of a body of alarm reports in the alarm report file.
8. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein each XML tag specifies compliance with one of a standard and a recommendation.
9. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein each XML tag specifies an alarm type.
- 25 10. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein each XML tag specifies an alarm token name.

11. A method of parsing an alarm report comprising steps of: identifying alarm tokens constituent of the reported alarm by inspecting eXtensible Markup Language (XML) tags encapsulating each alarm token.
- 5 12. The method claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of receiving the reported alarm.
13. The method claimed in claim 11, further comprising a step of: receiving a registration request from a network management function including a group of alarm tokens to be identified.
- 10 14. The method claimed in claim 13, further comprising a step of: triggering the network management function in identifying the group of alarm tokens in respect of a alarm report being parsed.
- 15 15. The method claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of: triggering multiple management functions registered with the parser in respect of different alarm token groups for the reported alarm when the combination of alarm tokens in alarm token groups are reported.
16. The method claimed in claim 11, further comprising steps of:
- a. identifying an unknown XML tag in inspecting the reported alarm token;
 - b. parsing the alarm token; and
 - c. discarding the alarm token.
- 20 17. The method claimed in claim 11, further comprising steps of:
- a. identifying an unknown XML tag in inspecting the reported alarm;
 - b. parsing the alarm; and
 - c. discarding the alarm.
- 25 18. The method claimed in claim 11, further comprising prior steps of:
- a. receiving an alarm log file; and

b. identifying the body of alarm reports in the alarm log file.

19. The method claimed in claim 18, further comprising a step of: identifying XML tags delimiting the body of alarm reports.
20. The method claimed in claim 11, wherein each XML tag specifies compliance with one of a standard and a recommendation.
21. The method claimed in claim 11, wherein each XML tag specifies an alarm type.
22. The method claimed in claim 11, wherein each XML tag specifies an alarm token name.